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Cc: Joseph Stout[j2stout@blm.gov]
From: Scrivner, James
Sent: 2017-05-03T14:55:22-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: ELT VTC Tuesday 5/2; summary notes
Received: 2017-05-03T15:56:05-04:00

- Opening Remarks
 - Mike Nedd: celebrated the hiring of veterans; border/working with border patrol; Ron Dutton retirement (May 12?); Howard acting behind Ron; reform efforts in the face of restructuring & budget reductions (the Themes & Goals priority work, non-discretionary work, and everything else)
 - John Ruhs: HR developing items; parameters & sideboards for FY2017 omnibus bill, and for FY2018 budget
 - Kathy Benedetto - no opening remarks
- RAC: postponed until after August; talking points shared; WO is not hearing much; Question from ELT - what's going on with open RAC nominations; Answer - Nomination process should continue - Kathy B. will check with Department on this; RAC subcommittee meetings are also postponed
- Executive Order / NMs: NM greater than 100K acres or when public involvement inadequate are subject to review; EO includes criteria for review and direction on coordination of the review; interim report due to DOI(?) in 45 days from April 26; final report due in 120 days from April 26; impacts 19 of 25 BLM NM based on size alone; FRN forthcoming for public input; [Close Hold - Secretary visiting Bears Ears & Grand Staircase next week]
- Grants / Cooperative Agreements / Decisions: managing grants & agreements due on June 1 for Secretarial review/approval; FC review before submission is included; RODs / DRs - of regional / national impact, Steve Tryon has lead; minerals non-routine also involved as well as land exchange and transfer; Question from ELT on emergency NEPA/EAs for acts of nature eg flooding - Kathy B. will talk up, did not think of that and obviously these situations need quick decisions, they should have close coordination with WO/DOI (more to follow on emergencies needing NEPA decisions)
- FOIA/Records: Decisions need a good AR - subject to FOIA; 600 new FOIA requests so far this year (a record) and expected to top 1200 by year's end; 277 requests in backlog (CA has 23); FY2018 goal is to have the backlog down to 138; FOIA is in "Bucket #2", the non-discretionary/have to do; FOIA-lead retirements a concern; BLM gets more FOIA than any other DOI bureau; Kathy B. asked how much FOIA is related to litigation - will need a follow-up with the answer; Kathy also wanted to know how big the "typical" FOIA response is and the answer was that there is no typical FOIA - each one takes its own course; most of the FOIA activity is NGOs seeking information behind BLM decisions, also significant levels of FOIA from the press
- Staffing/hiring, Jody: IM out soon to instruct on the exception request process; another IM coming out soon on WFP; Jody speaking with FC on WFP Wednesday 5/3; preparing VERA/VSIP to do into DOI for all DOI bureaus by the end of this week; 30 day turnaround on WFP for support to the VERA/VSIP request; WFP not just budget driven but priority driven as well; hiring IM has additional details to SDs on criteria for hiring (<= GS11, GS 12 & above, Field vs. National offices/centers, funded work, etc.);

reassignments before hiring; may have a need to find slots for downsized folks through reassessments; proceed careful on 14s & 15s - restructuring change may eliminate some of the 14s/15s

- High Priority items (sort of like the round robin): ID - EAs, spring runoff, reservoirs, unprecedented snow pack, sink trenches to help handle runoff & recharge groundwater; WY - asked if the 31 July ELT F2F is still on (checking); NIFC - fire leadership team meeting in Boise next week, wet winter/spring -> lots of grass fuel, fire delayed in areas of heavy snow pack; WO 200/Tryon - lands suitable for disposal IM / State data call soon to be out, needs to be GIS data in future, NEPA streamlining team ELT members needed, FACA groups postponed (RACs) also include WH&B; (b) (6) [REDACTED]; HR/Jody - 2017 FEVS survey out this week, encourage staff to complete survey (response rate declined a lot last year), trying to move the gauge on employee engagement, feedback by Friday (Jerry, SD) on WF restructure, budget bull - we now have a full BLM foundation
- Closing, Nedd: SD's, loop in the ADs while developing innovative approaches

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